

2 March 2010

To The Senate Finance and Public Administration Reference Committee.
Regarding Native Vegetation Laws (Queensland)

I am writing to make a submission regard the impact the Queensland Government Vegetation Management Laws have had upon my Property and my Business.

At this point I apologise if this Submission is not made in the proper format, however it is being made at very short notice.

I have found fault with the mapping having been constantly battling to get the mapped area reduced since the inception of these laws, the original map included my yards and small feedlot and a considerable area of old Gravel Pits and a considerable amount of grazing land. I have made numerous applications and had numerous meetings and inspections from DNR officers to get some of these areas finally removed in mid 2009. Every DNR officer that attended these inspections gave me an assurance that these areas would be removed, only to see applications fail time after time.

I was given permission to treat some of the standing timber in two small areas of the mapped area however the conditions imposed made it uneconomical and unsafe to do so.

On the first application for Compensation I was told that my application had failed due to the fact I had 11000acres and the mapped area was not significant, when I explained that I only have 600acres I was informed that I could make another application. I was informed the second application was unsuccessful as DNR was not giving compensation to properties in that particular Catchment area .When asked to describe the catchment area it was explained as a 5000 acre block, I requested a copy of the catchment area map on two occasions but have never received it.

It was explained that if the application was successful the money was to be put towards erosion control and a Treatment programme for weeds entering my property from adjoining Council and Government land.

I have found the entire Native Vegetation Laws unfair and it has led to the devaluation of my property both in the sale aspect and the burrowing of extra working capital. This has severely restricted my ability to expand and maintain my operation.

It is my belief the people in senior positions in DNR were allowed to follow their own personal beliefs and a gender without taking into consideration the Enormous impact it has had on the Peoples Livelihoods and businesses concerned. These decisions should have been made by a committee with some representatives from a rural back ground. The People who were greatly affected by these laws had no say in the people delegated to write and administer the Laws. It is certainly not right or fair that Honest Hardworking People should be treated in the manner they were in a Modern Civilized Country.

Sincerely Dale Murray